

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-5, 9, and 12-25 were rejected, claims 6, 8, 10, and 11 were objected to for containing allowable subject matter but being dependent on a rejected base claim, and claim 26 was allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for noting the allowable subject matter in the present patent application. By this response, Applicants have amended claims 1, 5, 8, 9, 11, 14, 23, and 25, and have cancelled claims 2, 6, 10, 15, and 24 without prejudice. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1, 3-5, 8, 9, 11-14, 16-23, 25, and 26 will remain pending in the present patent application.


As indicated above, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 9, 14, and 23 (which are all of the rejected independent claims of the present patent application) by this Response to include subject matter indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Although Applicants respectfully submit that these independent claims as previously pending were allowable and in condition to be patented, Applicants have amended these claims to include this subject matter indicated as allowable to advance prosecution of the present patent application to allowance. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of all pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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